

## INDO-CHINA

style. Their inspired a host of narratives dominated by the and of the Tonkinese campaign. Though some of the on Annamlte culture were written by officers like **Luro**, and Diguët, the military in general hated the colony so much that the attention they paid to its inhabitants was blinded by prejudice. The perfidy of nature was matched by that of the **Annanutes**. Even the gentle Khmers shared this universal disdain. The uncertainty of France's intentionSj the fear lest their sacrifices be in vain, intensified fatigue. The result was a vicious circle; very of thirst and fever endured on the long marches under a sun created Tonkin's sinister reputation in France, and were the **very** factors that made its fate hang in the balance. Theirs was the record of disillusionment in a country that did not live up to the French dream of an idealized Orient, rather than the expression of to understand it, It became fashionable to say that the were the and **most** ignoble people in the Far **East**, had neither an art nor a literature of their own. The with which the period was rife provided for a horror literature. Every Asiatic crime and cruelty, inter-the **customary** opium and *cmgme* touches, was depicted in with success in France. If accurately described, the picture would have been sombre enough without playing up **Mysterious** Violence. Only when such by the of a Boissiere or a Pouvoirville did the **k&nowledge** of these authors make as **What** French readers are apt to forget

**is**                      were accurate 'enough for **their day**  
but

changed.

## The Occidental writers experience in **uiniierstaading**

as **as** the of the Romantic tradition,  
attention to the exotic setting of

With **time**, the of **the** country began to filter in. A

of to savour the relics of the  
oad in this way they became  
die

of **colony's** regional- to' the French public. But the

**lift** for **to** grasp, though it seems very

to Tropical **nature** to some exiles

It is a tie to wMcii Occidentals are its potent charm\*